98. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, transdermal, and subcutaneous.

99. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, transdermal, and subcutaneous.

100. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered in a formulation selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid delivery complex, a liposome, a virosome, and a nanoparticle.

101. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered in a formulation selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid delivery complex, a liposome, virosome, and a nanoparticle.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to correct a typographical error in a sequence referred to as ODN1585(SEQ ID No. 12). The sequence appeared in its correct form in the sequence listing. Nucleotide No. 15 of SEQ ID No. 12 appears on page 22 of the specification as a C rather than a G. This error was typographical in nature and correction of it does not constitute new matter.

Claim 1 has been cancelled as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 42, 44, 45, 47, 55, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, and 68 have been amended. The amendments include minor corrections of claim language to clarify the scope of the invention. Also, claims 44 and 65 were amended to become independent claims including most of the limitations of claim 42 and 60 respectively plus the limitation of the now pending claim 44 and 65 respectively. Claims 45, 47, and 68 were amended to add the limitation that the backbone modification is limited to a specific type of modification, either a phosphorothioate or a phosphorodithioate modification.

New claims 90-101 have been added. These claims relate to methods for treating and preventing allergy and asthma, similar to the pending claims 42-89. In particular, claims 90 and 91 are independent claims that cover the administration of isolated bacterial DNA containing CpG motifs to a subject for the treatment or prevention of asthma and allergy. Support for this limitation can be found throughout the specification and in particular on page 18, line 10, which describes the use of isolated nucleic acids as a source for CpG and page 42, lines 19-20, which describe the immunostimulatory properties of bacterial DNA.

Support for claims 92, 93, 94, 95, 98, and 99 which relate to the oral, transdermal, or subcutaneous administration of CpG oligonucleotides for the treatment or prevention of allergy or asthma is found at least in the specification on page 54, lines 9-10. Support for new claims 96, 97, 100, and 101 which relate to the administration of formulated (nucleic acid delivery complex, liposome, virosome, nanoparticle) CpG oligonucleotides is found in the specification at least on pages 18, lines 12-20, 37, lines 16-18, 51, line 32, and 54, line 13. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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